

5 January 1953

PROJECT CRYPTONYM: GROSSBAHN

- OBJECTIVES: a) to collect ground and air OB on the Soviet Zone of Austria;
- b) to assist in the Station's REDCAP operations;
- c) to furnish CI/CE coverage, police surveillance and checks;
- d) to furnish aid and support of Satellite operations;
- e) to give political coverage of the Austrian scene when specifically requested;
- f) to give leads to, and possibly handle, personnel for the ICEBERG program.

INTELLIGENCE PRODUCED IN 1952: ( The period of time covered is from April 1952, as previously GROSSBAHN was handled from Germany.)

MAV-MAS-EAV-EAS Series:

Soviet Zone OB:	138	Only 6 of these were not disseminated. They have been received with great favor by customer agencies in the field. They constitute approximately 25% of the USFA OB take, exclusive of MIS debriefings. A memo from the Chief of Intelligence Section of USAF characterized these GROSSBAHN reports as "extremely useful in helping this Headquarters maintain its Air Order of Battle of Soviet Air Forces units in Sovzone Austria". It described the information in the reports as "quite reliable" and "of great interest to this Headquarters as well as to USAF, USAFE, USFA".
Werkchutz	2	
Political	2	One, a four page report on the present political situation in Land Salzburg and information on the VdU, was prepared in answer to a thirteen point brief submitted by USCOA.
East-West trade	3	
Communist and Communist Front Organizations	6	

MAVA-EAVA-MASA-EASA Series:

CE	circa	25	These reports were not disseminated, but have been very useful to us operationally and as background information. For example, there has been a report on the main [ ] personality; another on a figure in the [ ] operation; several on Willi HOETTL's relations to CAPOTE; one on a German IS approach to an agent of a Czech PC operation; one on a group of persons of interest in the ROESSELSPRUNG case; several on ZIPPER agents and activities. In addition to these CE reports relating to our operations, there have been a number concerning personalities of general intelligence interest to us. The CE coverage has been mainly of Austria, but some reports have dealt with Germany and Slovakia.
Slovakian economic		3	These were not disseminated because of being general or because useful mainly from an operational standpoint. GROSSBAHN's Slovakian operation collapsed in July 1952 before the reports collection was fully launched.

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)  
(2)(A) Privacy ☐  
(2)(B) Methods/Sources ☒  
(2)(G) Foreign Relations ☐

Declassified and Approved for Release  
by the Central Intelligence Agency  
Date: 2005

GROSSBAHN

OPERATIONAL LEADS PRODUCED:

Documentation: Austrian: (furnished Austrian Identitätsausweis of a new 1952 printing, a Salzburg Meldezettel für Untermieter, an Austrian Identitätsausweis of 1950)

Czech: (furnished complete information on the Czech document "Obciansky Preukaz", and procured 2 originals of this document)

Recruitment: Handled recruitment of agent for REDCAP.

SUMMARY:

In terms of the project objectives, GROSSBAHN has been quite successful in furnishing the desired coverage:

- a) His OB reporting has been extensive and competent, highly regarded by local customers, although the reaction of Washington customer agencies has been varied (some of the material has been evaluated in Washington as known and of slight interest).
- b) GROSSBAHN has only recently been asked to contribute to the REDCAP program. He successfully recruited the prospective agent he was asked to approach. He is now attempting to develop leads to possible REDCAP agents through his own sub-sources.
- c) GROSSBAHN's CI/CE coverage has been very helpful, both in terms of our own operations and the general CE scene. A particular advantage has been his ability to do namechecks on request speedily and in detail.
- d) The Slovakian operation which was beginning to produce reports and documentation collapsed in July 1952 with the arrest of the couriers in the CSR. Since then the emphasis has been mainly on the furnishing of leads to the Satellite operations, rather than on having GROSSBAHN actually mount such operations himself.
- e) In 1950, when under the direction of the Pullach Operations Base, GROSSBAHN was asked to desist from furnishing reports on the Austrian political scene, in favor of other targets. Although he now does not furnish political reports on a regular basis, he fulfills specific requests.
- f) The use of GROSSBAHN in the ICEBERG program is in the planning stage, and he has so far not been approached in this matter.

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SECURITY ASPECT:

GROSSBAHN's Slovakian operation ended in July 1952 when his last remaining couriers were picked up while on a mission inside Czechoslovakia. Following this, STAA, the Slovakian priest in Austria, involved in the operation was dropped. So later was XX-1, GROSSBAHN's case officer for the operation. These steps were taken to seal off GROSSBAHN from any efforts by CIS to follow up leads obtained from the captured couriers. There are no indications that GROSSBAHN's security has been endangered by the collapse of the Slovakian operation.

A serious threat to GROSSBAHN's security has come to light, however, through allegations that CC-2, GROSSBAHN's office assistant, has close connections with Willi HOETTL (well-known intelligence peddler suspected of connections with RIS, inter alia) and has disclosed classified information to him. These allegations were made by Karl HASS, a CIC informant, who also knows HOETTL well. CC-2 has on his own initiative submitted his resignation, to be effective 31 January 1953. CC-2 was to be interrogated in the field in early January and we are awaiting the report of the result before submitting a full report on the security compromise.

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